

REMARKS

For the Examiner's convenience and reference, Applicant's remarks are presented in substantially the same order in which the corresponding issues were raised in the Office Action. Please note that the following remarks are not intended to be an exhaustive enumeration of the distinctions between any cited references and the claimed invention. Rather, the distinctions identified and discussed below are presented solely by way of example to illustrate some of the differences between the claimed invention and the cited references. In addition, Applicant requests that the Examiner carefully review any references discussed below to ensure that Applicant's understanding and discussion of the references, if any, is consistent with the Examiner's understanding.

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-18 were examined and remain pending. Claims 1, 4-5, 8, and 10-12 stand rejected. Claims 2-3, 6-7, and 9 stand objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 13-18 stand allowed. No claims have been canceled. Claims 1-3 and 5-6 are currently amended. No other claims are amended. No new claims have been added. No new matter has been added.

Claim 1 is amended to recite a reset signal control circuit. Claims 2 and 3 are amended to clarify reference to the reset signal control circuit of claim 1.

Claim 5 is amended to recite a reset signal control circuit. Claim 6 is amended to clarify reference to the reset signal control circuit of claim 5.

RESPONSE TO CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 4-5, 8, and 10-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,038,681 to Saegusa (hereinafter "Saegusa") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,829,048 to Ofer et al. (hereinafter "Ofer"). Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are patentable over the cited references because the cited references do not teach or suggest each and every element of these claims. Accordingly, Applicant traverses this rejection as outlined below.

With regard to the rejection of independent claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited references. Claim 1, as amended, states:

A computer system in which a plurality of host computers and a plurality of other devices are interconnected by SCSI (Small Computer System Interface), comprising;

a plurality of host computers and one or more other devices interconnected by SCSI wherein one of said host computers has a device ID identical to a device ID of one of said other devices; and
a reset signal control circuit configured to input a reset signal to a SCSI control bus reset input of said one of said other devices in response to a terminal power of said one of said host computers being active.

(emphasis added).

To support the rejection of claim 1, the Office Action states the following:

Saegusa [does not disclose] inputting a reset signal to a SCSI control bus reset input of said one of said other devices in response to a terminal power of said one of said host computers being active. However, **Ofer discloses the storage controller reset system** for responding to the reset signal from one host and sending a signal to the other host indicating that the one host has sent a reset signal. Once host sends a reset signal which forces disk drives connected to the storage controller to a defined preset initialization, each other host having access to the reset device for receiving the information. (col.1, line 62-col.2, line 10)

Office Action, 12/23/2005, p. 2-3 (emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Office Action's characterization of the cited references. In particular, Ofer fails to teach or suggest "a reset signal control circuit" as recited in claim 1.

Ofer, in general, is directed toward a storage controller that couples multiple host computers to an array of disk drives. Ofer, Abstract. More particularly, Ofer addresses the problem of a host computer issuing a SCSI reset command (to a disk drive) that is unknown to other hosts connected to the same disk drive. Ofer, col. 3, lines 44-54. Data from the other hosts may be lost if the disk drive is reset to an initialization state without notifying the other hosts. Ofer, col. 3, lines 54-56. Therefore, Ofer teaches a storage controller that facilitates notifying the other hosts in response to a SCSI reset signal from one of the hosts to a disk drive. Ofer, col. 3, lines 57-61. The storage controller can facilitate such notification in two ways. First, the storage

controller may advise the uninformed hosts to request a SCSI Sense command from the controller, which returns status information indicating that the disk device has been reset. Ofer, col. 3, lines 61-67. Alternatively, the storage controller propagates a reset condition directly to each of the uninformed hosts. Ofer, col. 4, lines 27-30.

Ofer fails to teach or suggest “a reset signal control circuit” as recited in claim 1 of the present application. In particular, Ofer does not teach or suggest sending a reset signal to an “other device” (not a host computer) in response to active terminal power of one of the hosts. Rather, Ofer teaches sending a notification signal (or a command request) to the other hosts in response to a reset signal from one of the hosts. Therefore, Ofer fails to teach or suggest at least 1) sending the claimed type of signal, a reset signal; 2) sending the signal to the claimed recipients, the other hosts; and 3) sending the signal in response to the claimed type of activity, active terminal power of a host.

Therefore, for the reasons stated above, Ofer fails to teach or suggest all of the elements recited in claim 1. Accordingly, the Office Action fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness because the purported combination fails to teach or suggest every element of claim 1, as required by M.P.E.P. § 2143.03. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that the Office Action fails to establish a proper suggestion or motivation to combine the references. In particular, the Office Action merely recites a portion of the Background of the Invention section of Ofer (see, col. 1, lines 5-8). The Office Action fails to explain how the purported suggestion or motivation relates to the combination set forth.

Given that the combination of cited references fails to teach or suggest all of the elements recited in claim 1 of the present application, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 is patentable over the cited references. Applicant also requests that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn. Given that dependent claims 2-4 depend from claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-4 are also patentable over the cited references and requests that the rejection of dependent claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) also be withdrawn.

With regard to the rejection of independent claim 5, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 5 is patentable over the cited reference. The Office Action does not set forth any other reasons to support the rejection of claim 5 than those reasons already discussed above with

reference to the rejection of claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that those reasons fail to support the rejection of claim 5 because the Office Action fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness because the purported combination fails to teach or suggest every element of claim 5, as required by M.P.E.P. § 2143.03. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that the Office Action fails to establish a proper suggestion or motivation to combine the references.

Given that the combination of cited references fails to teach or suggest all of the elements recited in claim 5 of the present application, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 5 is patentable over the cited references. Applicant also requests that the rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn. Given that dependent claims 6-7 depend from claim 5, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 6-7 are also patentable over the cited references.

With regard to the rejection of independent claim 8, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 8 is patentable over the cited reference. The Office Action does not set forth any other reasons to support the rejection of claim 8 than those reasons already discussed above with reference to the rejection of claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that those reasons fail to support the rejection of claim 8 because the Office Action fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness because the purported combination fails to teach or suggest every element of claim 8, as required by M.P.E.P. § 2143.03. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that the Office Action fails to establish a proper suggestion or motivation to combine the references.

Given that the combination of cited references fails to teach or suggest all of the elements recited in claim 8 of the present application, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 8 is patentable over the cited references. Applicant also requests that the rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn. Given that dependent claims 9-12 depend from claim 8, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 9-12 are also patentable over the cited references and requests that the rejection of dependent claims 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) also be withdrawn.

RESPONSE TO CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 2-3, 6-7, and 9 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the

base claim and any intervening claims. As discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 5, and 8 are patentable over the cited references. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 2 and 3 are patentable in their current form as depending from independent claim 1. Applicant also submits that claims 6 and 7 are patentable in their current form as depending from independent claim 5. Applicant also submits that claim 9 is patentable in its current form as depending from independent claim 8.

Applicant notes that the Examiner provided an explanation of some of the allowable subject matter with regard to claims 2-3, 6-7, and 9. However, Applicant believes that these claims are allowable for reasons including, but not limited to, the Examiner's statement of reasons. Furthermore, Applicant notes that the Examiner's statements are to be taken in light of the structure and/or interaction recited in the respective claims. Applicant also notes that the comments in the current Office Action and response may have paraphrased the language of the claims. It should be understood that the language of the claims themselves set out the scope of the claims.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Office Action states that claims 13-18 are allowable. Applicant notes that the Examiner provided a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter with regard to claims 13-18. However, Applicant believes that these claims are allowable for reasons including, but not limited to, the Examiner's statement of reasons. Furthermore, Applicant notes that the Examiner's statements are to be taken in light of the structure and/or interaction recited in the respective claims. Applicant also notes that the comments in the current Office Action and response may have paraphrased the language of the claims. It should be understood that the language of the claims themselves set out the scope of the claims.

CONCLUSION

As a result of the presented amendments and remarks, Applicant asserts that claims 1-18 are patentable and in condition for prompt allowance. Should additional information be required regarding the amendment or traversal of the rejections of the independent and dependent claims enumerated above, the Examiner is respectfully asked to notify Applicant of such need. If any impediments to the prompt allowance of the claims can be resolved by a telephone conversation, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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